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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/630,948

07/29/2003

Wei Zhan Hang

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1775

20686

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10/19/2006

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EXAMINER

A, PHI DIEU TRAN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3637

DATE MAILED: 10/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/630,948

Applicant(s)

HANG, WEI ZHAN

Examiner

Phi D. A

Art Unit

3637

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 7-9 and 11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7-9, 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

"the pair of carrier" is indefinite as it is lacking antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 7-9, 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hutchison (4833858).

Hutchison (figure 2) shows a carrier (16), a paneling system (10) wherein the paneling system has at least a pair of longitudinally adjacent panels (figure 1), the panel each having a first and second hook shaped flange (22) extending longitudinally from longitudinally opposite sides of the panel, the carrier comprising an arm (13) that extend longitudinally from a vertically extending member (16), the arm including a first upwardly open U-shaped channel between an upstanding free end (14) and an upstanding locking lug(26) and a second upwardly open U-shaped channel between the locking lug and the vertically extending member, the first channel of

the carrier receives therein the first hook shaped flange of the one panel of the pair of the panels and the second channel of the carrier receives the second flange of the other panel of the pair of panels to attach the pair of panels to the carrier, the upstanding free end of the arm comprising a downwardly and outwardly angled surface (the surface which form the corner of part 14 and 18), the locking lug extending vertically above the upstanding free end, the rim having an outwardly angled surface facing the adjacent longitudinal side of the panel, the rim (the rim being the part which form the outwardly and downwardly curving angle to receive part 18) slidably receiving the upstanding free end of the one of the pair of carrier during installation of the panel to the carrier.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neumann et al (3246074).

Newmann et al (figures 1 and 7) shows a carrier (32), a paneling system (81, and the panel which forms the top of panel 81) wherein the paneling system has at least a pair of longitudinally adjacent panels, each of which has a first and a second hook-shaped flange (34, and the part that goes into channel 36) extending longitudinally from the panel, the carrier comprising an arm that extend longitudinally from a vertically extending member (32), the arm including a first upwardly open U-shaped channel between an upstanding free end (34, figure 5)

and an upstanding locking lug(the protruding part between 34 and part 32, figure 5) and a second upwardly open U-shaped channel between the locking lug and the vertically extending member, the first channel of the carrier receives therein the first hook shaped flange of the one panel of the pair of the panels and the second channel of the carrier receives the second flange of the other panel of the pair of panels to attach the pair of panels to the carrier.

Neumann et al does not show the panel each having a first and second hook shaped flange extending longitudinally from longitudinally opposite sides of the panel.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Neumann et al's structure to show the panel each having a first and second hook shaped flange extending longitudinally from longitudinally opposite sides of the panel because one having ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to copy the disclosed structure on one side of the panel onto the other side of the panel to enable the panel to mount the same way to a carrier on the other side.

3. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neumann et al (3246074).

Neumann et al as modified shows all the claimed limitations except for the upstanding free end of the arm comprising a downwardly and outwardly angled surface.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Neumann et al's modified structure to show the upstanding free end of the arm comprising a downwardly and outwardly angled surface because having a tapering surface would reduce stress at the end of the free end and thus enables the prevention of cracking/chipping of the panel.

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4. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neumann et al (3246074) in view of Ritter (4937994).

Neumann et al as modified shows all the claimed limitations except for the locking lug extending vertically above the upstanding free end.

Ritter shows the locking lug (18a) extending vertically above the upstanding free end.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Neumann et al's modified structure to show the locking lug extending vertically above the upstanding free end as taught by Ritter because having a higher locking lug would ensure that the panel which is at a higher elevation as it is on top of the other panel, be lockingly secured in the second channel.

5. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neumann et al (3246074).

Neumann et al as modified shows all the claimed limitations except for the rim having an outwardly angled surface facing the adjacent longitudinal side of the panel.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Neumann et al's modified structure to show the rim having an outwardly angled surface facing the adjacent longitudinal side of the panel because the rim having an outwardly angled surface facing the adjacent longitudinal side of the panel, would reduce stress at the end of the free end and thus enables the prevention of cracking/chipping of the panel.

Neumann et al as modified shows the rim slidably receiving the upstanding free end of the one of the pair of carrier during installation of the panel to the carrier.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 7-9, 11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.


Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The prior art shows different panel mounting device.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phi D A whose telephone number is 571-272-6864. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on 571-272-6867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Phi Dieu Tran A

10/16/06